

They don't have "much more patience".

We need them to con-firm, firm, firm, firm, firm, firm.

A person who will work, work, work, work, work, work.

To ensure that we can FERC, FERC, FERC, FERC, FERC, FERC, FERC, FERC.

Mr. Speaker, "What else I say? I am tryin', babe."

#### FENTANYL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in recent years, we have seen the devastating toll of fentanyl and its analogs all across America. A drug that is cheap to manufacture and, unfortunately, incredibly potent, to the point that it is now the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 18 and 49; over three decades of life.

Since July, the seizure of fentanyl at our southern border has averaged 2,200 pounds a month, meaning that our Border Patrol agents are now confiscating more fentanyl in a single month than they did in the entirety of 2018.

These are not just statistics in a government report.

Last week, I spoke to the parents who had lost a son to an accidental overdose. A vibrant, intelligent college student who had a mixture of cocaine and fentanyl sold to him, and he lost his life.

□ 1015

As I speak today, the first responders, police officers, and coroners in Pennsylvania tell me stories about how potent these drugs have become and how a single dose of Narcan is often no longer enough medication to revive a person who is suffering from an overdose.

These drugs are increasing in potency and, unfortunately, in affordability as drug cartels in Mexico have begun to manufacture and sell these drugs for the cost of a cup of coffee.

The human cost of this epidemic has been staggering, and it is in our rural areas that constituents are suffering the most.

We must recommit ourselves to the unfinished work of addressing this crisis. We need to invest in our communities and give our police officers and medical professionals the tools that they need to save lives and protect our neighborhoods and communities.

Unless we in Congress act, the fentanyl analogues that have become so deadly will become legal on American streets in just 3 days. The clock is ticking.

Our constituents are counting on us to address this issue. They are counting on us to permanently ban fentanyl analogues that have claimed thousands of American lives.

We need to work together to address this issue and ban permanently the

fentanyl analogues that have taken such a grave toll on all American communities.

#### RECOGNIZING RAFAEL "RALPH" DUARTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a champion for our local veterans, Rafael "Ralph" Duarte, and to thank him for his years of service to our communities.

Tomorrow, Ralph will transition after 10 years with the Riverside County Department of Veteran Services, where he has built a legacy as a fierce advocate, pillar of strength, and beacon of hope for Riverside County veterans.

Ralph was born in Delano, California, and graduated from Coachella Valley High School. He is a decorated Army veteran, having served for 4 years in Iraq and Afghanistan with the 3rd Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

After he returned home from the battlefield, he settled in Indio, California, and immediately got to work.

He has helped thousands of veterans recover their earned benefits that were denied to them by local, State, and Federal agencies over the years. In fact, it is estimated that he has helped local veterans and their families obtain \$55 million in monetary benefits. That is \$55 million to get them the care they need, the salary they have earned, and the recognition they deserve.

He truly goes above and beyond to serve others, even making home visits just to help elderly veterans fill out the necessary paperwork to get their VA benefits and care.

Ralph has participated in hundreds of community events. From community forums with the VFW, to our county's annual Veterans Expo, to my Veterans University, Ralph has always been there to greet veterans with a friendly smile, make them feel at home, and connect them with the resources they need.

His compassion, professionalism, and hard work has changed the lives of countless veterans for the better. His dedication, leadership, and advocacy have made Riverside County an even more welcoming place to those who served.

Ralph has always said that he is doing God's work in caring for those who have served and sacrificed to protect our Nation, and I couldn't agree more. Our local veterans have been truly blessed to have him fighting on their behalf.

So I thank Ralph for all that he has done. On behalf of California's 36th Congressional District, I wish Ralph, along with his wife, Rachel, and children, Ralph, Abram, and James, the best of luck in their next adventure.

HONORING TRIBAL CHAIRMAN RICHARD MILANOVICH

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a visionary leader and trail-

blazer, Tribal Chairman Richard Milanovich, who served the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians for nearly 30 years.

Chairman Milanovich was a powerhouse who came from humble beginnings. He grew up poor in Palm Springs, and his family survived on nutrition assistance.

He went on to serve our Nation as an infantryman in the U.S. Army for 3 years before returning to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians reservation.

In 1984, he was elected as Tribal chairman, ushering in a new age of prosperity for the Tribe. His impact spread far and wide, and he is still revered as a change-maker for Tribes throughout California and the entire Nation.

We celebrate Chairman Milanovich's memory and legacy by renaming the Palm Springs post office in his honor.

HONORING MARINE CORPS CORPORAL HUNTER LOPEZ

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marine Corps Corporal Hunter Lopez, my constituent who was killed in action while serving our Nation at the Kabul airport on August 25, 2021.

Yesterday, this body honored his legacy by unanimously passing legislation to designate the La Quinta post office in his memory.

Corporal Lopez was the embodiment of service. He lived his life with a larger purpose in mind, a purpose of serving our country and contributing to something greater than himself.

With the Marine Corps, he aided the largest airlift in human history, evacuating over 120,000 of our fellow Americans and allies.

Corporal Lopez worked up until his last moment to save others. Now, his story is forever entwined with our Nation's, and it is my hope that with this legislation, future generations will come to know his legacy of remarkable service, compassion, and heroism.

#### OBSERVATIONS AND GRATITUDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, it has been the honor of my life to serve in this distinguished body on behalf of the people of southwest Washington.

As I look around this Chamber, I am flooded with memories, thinking about everything that has happened in this room, both good and bad, in the 12 years since I first took my oath.

I can remember driving my 1990s vintage Ford Explorer across the country, with my husband of 3 months, in late December 2010 to get here in time for swearing in. I was ready to do my very best for my home region and Congress.

Some things haven't changed. I still have that Ford Explorer; my husband is every bit the rock now that he was then; and I have never compromised